

Recognitions at October 2008 State Board Meeting

- **South Carolina's Teacher of the Year**

State Superintendent of Education Jim Rex and State Board member Rick Adkins (at left in photo) congratulate Jenna Hallman of Calhoun Academy of the Arts in Anderson School District Five for her service as the state's Teacher of the Year for the 2008-09 school year. Hallman earned a bachelor's degree from Eastern Connecticut State University and a Master of Education degree from Clemson University. A 10-year classroom veteran, she has mentored teachers and supervised student teachers.

She is a member of Anderson University's Education Department Leadership Team and has frequently served as a workshop presenter. In addition to being the lead writer and project manager for a \$10,000 Toyota Tapestry grant, she is a two-time recipient of her district's Golden Apple award for instruction in higher level thinking. She is National Board-Certified.



- **2008-09 Honor Roll Teachers of the Year**

The State Board also honored South Carolina's Honor Roll Teachers as finalists in the 2008-2009 state Teacher of the Year selection process. They are:

JOSIE STRATTON, an English teacher at Mayo High School for Math, Science and Technology in Darlington County, shown in photo at right with State Superintendent Jim Rex. A 14-year teaching veteran, Stratton left law school to pursue a career in teaching. She believes that it is every educator's responsibility to help cultivate quality teachers. Stratton is a frequently sought workshop presenter. She is National Board-Certified.



RENEE SANDERS, a biology teacher at Johnsonville High School in Florence School District 5, shown in photo at left with State Board member Trip Dubard (left in photo) and State Superintendent Jim Rex. Her classroom is a place where minds are challenged, ideas encouraged and thinking validated. A recipient of the President's Award for Excellence in Science Teaching, Sanders has taught for 26 years. She is National Board-Certified.

RONA NEELY, a math teacher at Bell Street Middle School in Laurens School District 56, is shown with State Board member Charles McKinney (left in photo) and State Superintendent Jim Rex. A four-year teaching veteran, Neely believes that children need teachers who encourage them when circumstances seem to leave them hopeless – teachers who will always go the extra mile. Her program, T.E.A.R.S. (*Teaching and Empowering Addiction Reared Students*), is in the beginning stages of development. Its mission is to educate children about the effects of drugs and alcohol and empower them with the knowledge and resources to break the cycle of abuse and lead more healthy lives. She is National Board-Certified.



The fourth Honor Roll teacher is LAURA JEAN REED, a music teacher at Stone Academy of Communications Arts in Greenville, who was not able to attend the State Board meeting recognition ceremony. Reed's goal is to help young people realize their innate beauty and to reach students who have not yet come to know and love themselves. She is a 21-year teaching veteran and is National Board-Certified.